

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A gas lighting rod comprising a gas release valve and a piezoelectric igniting system, both operated by a spring-loaded operating member, and a spring-loaded safety member which has to be operated to release the operating member, ~~wherein including guide means for guiding the operating member is arranged to move~~ substantially linearly in a primarily transverse direction generally traverse to the axis of the lighting rod but angled to include a subordinate longitudinal movement towards the gas release valve when operated skewed backwards from orthogonality.
2. (Currently Amended) A gas lighting rod according to claim 1 wherein the casing of the lighting rod includes a substantially ~~straight flat~~ portion through one end of which the operating member is accessible.
3. (Currently Amended) A gas lighting rod according to claim 2 wherein said substantially ~~straight flat~~ portion is substantially at right angles to the direction of movement of the operating member.
4. (Currently Amended) A gas lighting rod comprising a gas release valve and a piezoelectric igniting system, both operated by a spring-loaded operating member, and a spring-loaded safety member which has to be operated to release the operating member, wherein the piezoelectric igniting system includes a piezoelectric member one end of which is carried on the operating member and engages with the operating member, the other end of which engages with a lever which controls the gas release valve, there being against a fixed stop against which said level engages when the operating member is operated.
5. (Original) A gas lighting system according to claim 4 wherein the piezoelectric member is carried in a bore in the operating member.

6. (Original) A gas lighting system according to claim 4 wherein the operating member includes a bore for receiving a portion of the safety member.

7. (Original) A gas lighting system according to claim 4 wherein the piezoelectric member is carried in a first bore in the operating member and the operating member includes a second bore, substantially parallel to the first bore, for receiving a portion of the safety member.

8-9. (Canceled)